

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 220742Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6245

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY MANILA

S E C R E T CANBERRA 4880

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PORG, AS, RP, TH

SUBJ: AUSTRALIAN PROPOSAL TO DISSOLVE SEATO

REF: CANBERRA 4842

1. DFA SECRETARY ALAN RENOUF PROVIDED A BIT MORE BACK-
GROUND ON THE SO-CALLED AUSTRALIAN INITIATIVE REGARDING
SEATO.

2. ASIDE FROM ROMULO'S INTERVENTION IN PEKING, THE
AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY IN BANGKOK HAD BEEN REPORTING LUKEWARM
THAI VIEWS TOWARDS SEATO, SUGGESTING A LACK OF THAI
INTEREST. WHEN THIS HAD BEEN DISCUSSED AT A RECENT
AUSTRALIAN CHIEFS OF MISSION MEETING, THERE WERE DIVIDED
OPINIONS AS TO WHETHER AUSTRALIA SHOULD TAKE ANY MOVES
TOWARDS PROMOTING SEATO DISSOLUTION, BUT ALL AGREED THAT
THAI VIEWS IN THIS MATTER MOST IMPORTANT TO ASCERTAIN.

3. RENOUF SAID THERE WAS ANOTHER, HIGHLY SENSITIVE ANGLE
TO THIS QUESTION. HIS FONMIN (WILLESEE) HAS BEEN SO OVER-
SHADOWED BY PRIMIN WHITLAM THAT WHEN ROMULO RAISED ISSUE
WITH WILLESEE, LATTER WAS ONLY TOO ANXIOUS TO TAKE SOME
INITIATIVE ON HIS OWN, AND FELT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO MOVE
RAPIDLY IN VIEW OF KHUKRIT'S IMPENDING VISIT TO MANILA.
HENCE PAT SHAW'S SUDDEN CALL IN WASHINGTON. (NOT EVEN

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NEW ZEALANDERS HAD BEEN CONSULTED, CAUSING SOME IRRITATIONS

IN NZG.) ALTHOUGH PRIMIN AND DEFMIN MORRISON FELL IN WITH
WILLESEE'S PROPOSAL, THEY HAVE ALL COME TO RECOGNIZE ITS
COMPLICATIONS. IT IS NOW AGREED IN CANBERRA THAT
AT THIS STAGE NO ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN PENDING FURTHER
CONSULTATIONS WITH USG. MEANWHILE, CANBERRA AWAITING THE
RESULTS OF WHATEVER TRANSPIRED BETWEEN KHUKRIT AND MARCOS.
GREEN

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NNN

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